THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Some customers who were obtaining petroleum products on concessional sales tax basis are alleged to have been diverting these products for the purpose other than the intended use thereby evading sales tax. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case in the matter on 23rd May, 2000 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Export of Petrol and Diesel

1642. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export petrol and diesel during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the countries to which these would be exported;

(c) whether the export of petrol and diesel would have any impact on the import of crude oil from Arab Countries; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check oil import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and(b) The export of petroleum products depend upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the prevailing market condition. Government have, initiated steps to take care of the surplus products, if any in view of increase in domestic refining capacity. The export of Petrol and Diesel has since been decanalised. These are freely traded commodities in the international market and export destination are decided by market consideration.

(c) India is a net importer of petroleum. In the light of growing demand of petroleum products, more than doubling of refining capacity during 9th plan period and the indigenous production of crude oil not keeping pace with the same, incremental demand would have to be met primarily by importing crude oil. Petroleum products

would be imported/exported to the extent of the gap in production and demand of individual products.

(d) To check oil import bill, steps have been taken to increase refining capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector. Steps are also being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector.

Revision of fare charged from dealers of petrol and diesel

1643. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of revision of fare to be charged from dealers of petrol and diesel getting their supplies from refinery at Moti-Khavdi, district Jamnagar, is under consideration of his Ministry;

(b) if so, by when a decision is expected;

(c) whether it is a fact that inspite of supplies being made from the refinery at Moti-Khavdi, the fare is charged from Koyali Refinery to Rajkot; and

(d) if so, how much extra burden falls on the end user per litre of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) No decision has yet been taken.

(c) and (d) All the markets that are based on Rajkot Depot pricing which in turn continues to be based on Koyali refinery pricing. The actual extra burden various depending on the relative distance of the market from the pricing points.